

# DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP



A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

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## THE RISE AND FALL OF THE DIME NOVEL

Editor of The Record:

In your editorial columns of Friday's issue I noticed an article, "The Dime Novel in Retrospect," in which it is stated that the New York Library will place on exhibition on July 15 a collection of the Beadle Dime Novels—"those little books that were the delight of the small boy."

Apparently this has reference to the "Dime Libraries," first issued in the late '70s—not to the original Beadle Dime Novel series issued in the early '60s—which had great vogue during the civil war, being read by thousands of soldiers and others—published up to 1876, when the form was changed from pocket size to the large folio size, without covers, in imitation of The Lakeside Library, issued in Chicago.

The original Beadles were of small size, adapted for carrying in the pocket; they had salmon-colored covers, and were devoted for the most part to American historical stories, narratives of the French and Indian wars, the Revolution, adventure, romance, etc., in the woods, the mountains, on the prairies, and among Indians and trappers. They were well written. The editor, Mr. Orville J. Victor, insisted upon the stories being clean, moral in tone and full of action. The original "dimes" contained nothing objectionable, although they were exciting reading.

"Malaeska, or the Indian Wife of

the White Husband," the first of the series, was written by Mrs. Ann S. Stephens, and was published in the summer of 1860. Mrs. Stephens was as well known to the literary world of that period as are Edith Wharton or Mrs. Deland of the present time.

Edward S. Ellis, although at that time a youth of 20, was a regular contributor and wrote many of Beadle's best sellers, among them "Seth Jones; or the Captives of the Frontier"—of which 400,000 copies are said to have been sold; also "Bill Biddon," "Nathan Todd," "Oonomoo, the Huron," "Riflemen of the Miami," "Rangers of the Mohawk" and many others.

Some of the novels were classics in their way, such as "Maum Guinea and Her Plantation Children, a Tale of Slave Life," published during the civil war, and written by Mrs. Meta V. Victor, wife of the editor, who also wrote many other books for the series, among them "The Backwoods Bride" and "Alice Wyde, the Raftsman's Daughter," all well written and interesting.

In July, 1907, The Atlantic Monthly published an article written by Charles M. Harvey, one of the editors of The St. Louis Globe-Democrat, entitled "The Dime Novel in American Life," which gave a complete history of these little books, not only those of Beadle, but the imitators, published by George Munro, called "Munro's Ten Cent Novels," and those issued by his brother, Norman L. Munro, under the title of Ornum & Co's Indi-



an Novels"—a most bloodthirsty and and nonsensical series, full of sensationalism. The name "Ornum" was simply Munro transposed. Norman L. Munro also published The Family Paper from 1873 until the beginning of the present year, when it suspended; the last of the several weekly story papers, once so popular, particularly in the rural districts.

When I get my pipe alight

A good book is my delight.

CHARLES W. MORRIS

Philadelphia, July 15, 1922.

### THE NICKLE LIBRARY

By Seajay

First published in Chicago in 1877. Later transferred to New York. Among all publications of its time or of ALL time, its tales were issued and re-issued under the same caption (NICKLE LBY.), as many as FOUR TIMES, and this WITHOUT CHANGE OF ORIGINAL TITLES OF THE TALES. This is a rather remarkable testimony of the evident great popularity of the publication which found no necessity of resorting to the cheap subterfuge of re-issuing a tale under altered title to deceive the buyer. An HONEST publication for the full 20-odd years of its existence. Possibly no other publication of any kind can make a like showing or claim.

The NICKLE LBY. comprises 920 titles, most of which were re-issued two, three, and four times with an occasional fresh tale sandwiched in at intervals. The re-printings commenced with No. 298. Some 35 tales which originally appeared in "THE WEEKLY NOVELIST," (Boston, 1878), were here re-issued. The series, in the main, is rich in Indian tales, Pioneer tales, and Border Romances, and peopled with characters peculiar, and oft-time lovable, amid their settings of block-house and forest, and their authors' depiction of their speech, manners and customs in those far-off days.

It is rather remarkable, that although running 920 issues through a period covering some 20 years, these fine little octavo-format novels have not come to light in the numbers one might expect. They are difficult to locate, scarce.

Note: Reprints of NICKLE LBY.

tales were later re-issued by the New York publishers. These appeared under altered titles in "LITTLE CHIEF" LBY., and "BORDER BOYS" LBY.

### AN ODDITY

By Seajay

The story "VAGABOND JOE," appearing as item No. 5 under the list of Beadle's HALF DIME Lby., is a double-number consisting of some 28 pages, and with the original issue containing the words; PRICE 10 CENTS. And this was a HALF DIME Lby. It is possibly the scarcest title among the Old Coomes tales in the Half Dime series, and was later re-printed therein at the 5-cent price. One of the very few fortunate possessors of an original issue, is Brother George French of Bloomfield, N. J.

### — NOVELNUT NONSENSE —

YE EDITOR reports that he has on file at ROUND UP headquarters 51 applications by Club Members for the position of Treasurer. He disclaims suspicions as to this rush but hastens to inform the Brethren that funds on hand consist of 19-cts. cash, a Russian nickle, and three stamps.

BROTHER MORAN, the Oakland Indian Hater, recently returned from the Nevada wilds with the scalps of 7 bucks, 3 squaws, and a papoose. He reports that Indians are getting scarce. While remorseful over the demise of the squaws and papoose, it could not be helped. P. J. takes no chances and uses a scatter-gun.

BROTHER MILLER, our famed Texas Naturalist, reports netting a specimen of that rarity, the MEXICAN GUFFLE BIRD. This bird subsists on Mexican Chili-peppers only, and flies backwards in order to keep cool and comfortable, a perfect example, so explains Brother Miller, of Nature's air-conditioning. What a world we live in, and what wonders we behold.

LATEST SONG HITS by Brother Austin have resulted in "Standing Room Only" signs in the Academy of Music. They are "Sweet Fields Beyond The Swelling Flood," and "Mame's Little Old Red Trunks." Send 25-cts. for words without music. (Advt.)



THERE IS VIRTUE even in adversity. Brother Bragin's wooden-leg gives him 50% immunity from gout pains.

WHEN CALLED UPON to recite his touchingly beautiful composition at a reception given in his honor, Brother French responded. There was not a dry eye in his audience at the conclusion, and one old lady swooned away. The composition is entitled "Papa's Drunk Again."

BROTHER SMELTZER is putting up sauer-kraut for winter consumption.

BROTHER BRAGIN'S celebrated home remedies for all human woes. The wonderful "L & B" compound of Lampblack and Beeswax will take care of your hookworms and doodle-bugs. Directions: Shove a handful of the stuff into mouth and hope it dissolves on the tongue. None genuine without the blue label. Price, per bag of 50 lbs., \$1.00. (Adv.)

IN VIEW OF Hitler's possible invasion of our country, Brother Burns, our stern and rock-bound Maine member will shortly issue a pamphlet of instruction in the use of Tomahawk and scalping knife. It will make easy the lost art of removal of scalps with the ears intact.

LIFE IS NOTHING BUT TIME. We have just so much of it to spend, so best spend it on old novels. NEVER GROW UP, for that is where fun ends.

Well, see you later—if you wish it.

P.S.—BROTHER SKINNER has just reported the breaking down of his sausage-machine.

### EVER HATE ANYONE FOR DOING YOU A BIG FAVOR

Gratitude! What a strange thing it is. Should be such a simple affair, shouldn't it. But somehow it isn't simple at all. Gratitude is complex to the last degrees.

It takes a great soul to be really grateful.

Do a real favor for a real man, and he'll never forget it as long as he lives. No matter where you are or who you are: no matter what people say of you that man will think in his heart of hearts:

How kind he was to me; how generous! I'll never forget it.

But the small man, the petty soul—he doesn't like to think of the favor. He forgets it as soon as he can.

He can't bear to believe that anyone ever had a chance to be generous to him. Why, he doesn't need anybody's help or anyone's generosity. The sure way to earn the cold-blooded dislike of a small man or a petty-minded woman is to do one of these people a single favor.

Gratitude is the last thing in the world they can endure. It takes nobility, breadth of mind, a warm heart and a big understanding nature to feel real gratitude. The man who gives, and gives, and gives, must be generous, and so must the man who takes, and takes, and takes.

I spoke a woman's name the other day in a room full of rather pleasant people, and the face of one of the rather pleasant people contorted in a strange grimace like the grimace a spoiled child makes at the taste of a particularly sour pickle.

"My friend has done that woman a great favor sometime," I said to myself, "and the woman hates her for it."

And I found later that what I thought was true. My friend had saved that woman from a disastrous failure, and the woman cannot forgive my friend.

Oh! yes it pays to be generous; it pays to be kind; it pays to be forgiving, but do not look for gratitude. You may not like the aspect of it when you find it.

### NOTED NOM DE PLUME OF NOVELIST

Sir: In your article, "Dime Novel Days," I was surprised to observe that the name of Thomas W. Hanshew, who used the name Bertha M. Clay as a nom de plume, was not mentioned. I knew him when he was a call boy in the old Brooklyn Theatre, and have been a guest at his home after he married. He wrote his first story at the age of ten, published in the "Arm Chair." The play of the Danites, by McKee Rankin was taken from his story of "The Forty-niners." Upon his death in London his obituary notice told how after a quarrel with Munro, publisher, he ceased to write under his own name, and fooled



Munro with his Bertha M. Clay stories. Perhaps William J. Penners won't overlook him when he writes his book. G. W. J. Highstown, N. J.

—Clipping

### NEWSY NEWS

Physical Culture, Sept 1907, Vol. 18, No. 3, page 160, is a picture and short story of George French, Bates College, Lewiston, Maine.

Laurlana Sheldon, author of My Queen, and some of the James Boys, Wild West, etc., fell and broke her arm last winter.

We heard that Gilbert Patten is to start a radio serial this fall on the Merriwell's.

The Dalton's Ride Again, will be found in a full page and a half write-up in Hearst's Sunday newspapers, such as Boston American, New-York American, etc. Send 10c for copy, dated August 4th, 1940.

A half page picture showing a Beadle's Dime Library, Frank Starr's Dime Library and a Log Cabin Library appeared on page 717, June 1940, of the National Geographical Magazine. Looks like Charles Bragin holding the Beadle's Dime Library, I wonder if it is?

How's this—Leonard C. Leichter, 89 Perkins St., Brockton, Mass., came across an old letter that he received from Raymond L. Caldwell of Lancaster, Pa., dated May 5, 1912, in which Ray offered him a complete set of Tip Top Weekly Nos. 1 to 851 for only \$15.00, all in fine condition, too. 28 years ago, some difference now. That's a believe it or not item.

Brother Leichter also says, he received a letter from R. V. Perine Exchange Bureau, of San Antonio, Texas. (Remember him) guess some of you do. He sent a list of novels for sale, note the prices he asked. Tip Top Weekly #79 104 124 136 137 138 162 at 2 for 5c; Old Log Cabin #41 58 63 71 74 at 3c each. Frank Reade Library #14 17 23 24 37 at 3 for 10c. Comic Library #4 19 41 and many more at 2 for 5c. Beadle's Half Dime Library #119 121 247 and over 75 more of them at 2 for 5c. Many Wide Awake Libraries at 2 for 5c. Those were the days. Leonard sent \$2.00 to Frank Tousey publishers, in 1914, and received 48 brand new

Pluck and Luck, nos 36 to 86. About the same date, he bought 50 Beadles Half Dime Libraries from M. J. Ivers & Co., for 6c each, all in fine condition.

Old King Brady, the Sleuth-Hound by Harold C. Holmes out in Sept. Roundup.

For the most thrilling and romantic stories of the West, read "Ranch Romances." On the newsstands everywhere twice a month.

Dime Novel Catalogue, Illustrated, Free for stamped, addressed envelope. R. Bragin, 1525 W. 12th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

### WIDE AWAKE MAGAZINE

Published by Lathrop of Boston, Mass. Have about 25 numbers in the years, 1880 and 1890. Will trade for Frank Tousey 5c novels.

J. Reischmann,

R. R. 1, Box 364

Norwood Station, Chicago, Ill.

(Note my new box no.)

### WANTED

Loose copies or volumes of F. M. Lupton's People's Home Journal, and Good Literature, prior to 1908. Loose copies or bound volumes of New York Weekly for 1861, 1863 and 1864. Loose copies or bound volumes of Saturday Star Journal, Saturday Night any year.

Herman Pitcher

423-S, Marion St., Lake City, Florida

### FOR SALE ONLY

Secret Service, Nos. 422, 243, 218, 221, 241 — 90c each.

Pluck and Luck, Nos. 665, 321, 614, 592, 597, 482, 313, 575, 626, 383, 409, 264, 632 — 50c each.

Brave and Bold, Nos 77, 428, 396, 68, 105 — 60c each.

All novels guaranteed satisfactory, or money refunded.

ROY E. MORRIS

221—6th St. S. W., Mason City, Iowa



# MEMBERS OF THE HAPPY HOURS BROTHERHOOD FOR 1940

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- 120—Lester Sisk, Box 398, Oil City, La. (new member)
- 27—Edward J. Smeltzer, Newportville, Pa.

Change of address to—George E. Mastacello, 2544 Valentine Av., Bronx, New York City, N. Y.

## FOR SALE

The Five Cent Wide Awake Library, No. 541, very rare, title—The Steam Man of the Plains, or the Terror of the West, by Harry Enton. This is the first of the Frank Reade Stories in this Library, January 24, 1883. Will give you all a little insight of the story. Chap. 1, Frank and

Charlie. "Frank!" shouted Mrs. Reade from the rear of her dwelling, "Here's your Cousin Charley, from Missouri." "All right," said a voice that seemed to come from a sort of woodshed at the end of a long yard, "I'm coming." The door of the outhouse was cautiously opened, and Frank Reade slipped out, carefully reclosing the door. In a moment he was shaking hands with the tall, broad-shouldered western youth who had traveled from Missouri to New York to pay him a visit. In age the cousins were alike, both being sixteen, but while Frank, born and bred in New York, and being of a studious nature, and quite a thinker, was pale, slim and not over strong; the Missouri boy, breathing the free air of the great prairies, had grown strong and robust in form, a splendid hunter, a dead shot, and a lover of wild adventure. The Reade family were well to do in the world, and Frank the only child, had been permitted to have his way until he was pretty well spoiled. However, his greatest delight was to indulge his inventive genius, and that had full play. The moment that Mrs. Reade left the two boys alone, Frank grasped his cousin by the hand and said: "If I show you something will you give me your word to keep your mouth shut about it?" "Certainly," said Charley Garse, wondering what was up. "Then follow," said the mysterious Frank, and he led the way to the wood-shed. He cautiously opened the door a little gave a glance at the windows of all the houses in the block, to see if any one was looking, and then bolted into the building and drew Charlie in after him. "Thunderation!" cried Charley, for there in front of him he suddenly beheld a huge figure, looking like one of the giants of old. The western boy was startled, and might have backed out of the door, had not Frank restrained him. "Hold on," he said, laughing at his cousin's evident alarm, "you needn't be afraid, it's only a machine." "Phew," whistled Charley. "Fact!" Triumphantly cried Frank, "It's one of the greatest inventions of the age. It's a steam man." Read the further adventures etc., about this great wonder of the plains, Price \$5. Valley Dime Book Co., Fisherville, Mass.



# For Sale

Secret Service, Early Nos. Good to Fine at \$1.00 each. #52 77 87 100 101 102  
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Secret Service, at 50c. Black and white illustrations neatly bound in yellow covers—Fine shape. #154 159 171 174 175 176 183 188 199 200 205 209  
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Bound Volume #7 of Secret Service, contains #79 to #91 inclusive. Nice shape, #83 cover missing. Price. \$15.00.

Nick Carter Wkly. at 75c. Good shape. #229 235 258\* 261 263 264 277 414 415.

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Nick Carter Stories, at 25c. Good shape. #156.

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Diamond Dick, Jr. Wkly., at 25c. Fair. #46 465 749.

Diamond Dick Jr. Wkly., at 50c Good shape, but stamped. #157 158 163 166 169 226.

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Brave and Bold Wkly., at 50c. Fine. #77 90 337 339 398.

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#### The following at 25c,

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Boy's Star Library, Jack Wright Story, at 25c. #332, Fair, taped.

Beadle's Pocket Library, at 10c. Poor, taped.

New York Five Cent Library, at 40c. #124. Fair, taped.

Nugget Library, at 50c. #84 133. Good.

Old Sleuth Library, at 50c. #60 101. Good.

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Aldines Half Holiday Library, at 50c. #346, Good.

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Beadle's Dime Library, at 75c. Fine. #18 54 58 60 62 88 97 103 145 163 171 198 199 224 235 246 360 377 657 748 786 883 962.

Beadle's Dime Library, at 50c. #200 1085 1091. Good, but taped or small stamp.

Work and Win, at 75c. Fine. #16 17 20 33 35 39 46 59 60 61 67 70 73 78 89 90 95 101 103.

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Bound Volume, Work and Win. Fine shape. #321 to 340 inclusive. Price \$10. (20 numbers)

Happy Days a nice run of 54. Number 337 to 390 inc. Good shape. Price \$8.00, worth more.

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 1366 1367 1368 1371 1375 1381.

15 Bound volumes of Work and Win. #105 to 732 incl.

4 Bound Volumes, Wild West Weekly.

13 Bound volumes of Secret Service. #118 to 727 incl. These volumes contain  
 39 numbers each and some have original covers some have none.

Prices and detailed information on each volume on request.

One lot 30 old story papers published between years 1887 to late '90s, such as  
 Beadle's Banner Weekly, New York Weekly, Family Story Paper, Fire-  
 side Companion, Chicago World, Yankee Blade, etc., at 10c each or the  
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